

MAY, 1933

BULLETIN 290

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station  
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA



**Negro Organizations and Leadership  
In Relation to Rural Life  
In Virginia**

**By JOHN MALCUS ELLISON**

# CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction .....	3
Historical Survey of Typical Organizations .....	6
Beneficial Society of Free Men of Color .....	6
The Moral Association .....	7
Secret Organizations .....	7
Order of Good Samaritans .....	8
Knights of Jerusalem .....	10
Odd Fellows .....	11
Semi-Fraternal and Insurance Organizations .....	11
Independent Order of Saint Luke .....	12
United Order of Moses .....	13
Educational Organizations .....	18
Virginia State Teachers' Association .....	18
The Negro Organization Society of Virginia .....	23
Agricultural Organizations and Educational Activities .....	27
Agricultural Extension Work .....	27
Vocational Agricultural Work .....	38
Case Studies .....	46
Organizations .....	46
Study Number One .....	46
Study Number Two .....	52
Study Number Three .....	56
Study Number Four .....	57
Study Number Five .....	58
Study Number Six .....	59
Leadership in Relation to Rural Organizations .....	61
The Jeanes Teacher .....	62
The County Training School and Leadership .....	62
Agricultural Leaders .....	64
Leadership Case Stories .....	69
Evaluations, Conclusions and Recommendations .....	76
Bibliography .....	87



cup2

# Negro Organizations and Leadership In Relation to Rural Life In Virginia

By JOHN MALCUS ELLISON

*Field Assistant in Rural Sociology, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station,  
and Professor of Sociology, Virginia State College for Negroes*<sup>1</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to present a descriptive analysis of the various types of organizations that exist or have existed among Negroes in rural Virginia. It also aims to present a picture of Virginia Negro rural leadership. It is the sixth number in the series of rural organization studies being made in rural sociology at the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station.<sup>2</sup> It presents a general view of the Negro organizational situation somewhat similar to the one for the whites given in our bulletin 256, the first number of the organization series.

Any well-defined organizational effort among Negroes in rural sections of the state is a comparatively recent development. However, some form of purposive mutual associations existed among Negroes even before the Civil War.

Whatever the type of organization, it seems apparent that Negroes have felt the need for purposive association and cooperative effort if they were to maintain moral standards, insure economic security and make educational advancement. A study of these early associations indicates that these ideas were seldom, if ever, omitted from their associational objectives. Organization for moral uprightness first received emphasis. Then follow those with more fraternal features. Organizations with a definite and larger economic and educational emphasis come much later in the history of Negro organizations in rural Virginia.

Some of the more typical organizations of each type have been analyzed in this study. In recent years the trend seems to be toward organizations of a more economic, educational and social type.

**Procedure.** Effort has been made to put the study, as far as possible, on an objective basis. To this end several types of schedules were used

<sup>1</sup> Submitted to the faculty of Drew University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy.

<sup>2</sup> The following bulletins in this series have been published by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station: "Rural Organizations in Relation to Rural Life in Virginia," bulletin 256, 1927; "The Role of the Church in Rural Community Life in Virginia," bulletin 267, 1929; "The Negro Church in Rural Virginia," bulletin 273, 1930; "Young People's Organizations in Relation to Rural Life in Virginia with Special Reference to 4-H Clubs," bulletin 274, 1930; and "Membership Relations in Community Organizations," bulletin 287, 1932.

Edition of 7,000 copies.



in collecting data. All the data needed could not be obtained through schedule studies. Accordingly, numerous personal interviews were held with farm agents, home demonstration agents, teachers, ministers and old residents of many communities. A considerable amount of data was obtained through personal letters and documents.

The thirty-one counties in which the agricultural extension program is being carried on were visited and observations made. These were checked by interviews, and by study of farm agents' reports and files. Case studies have been presented as illustrative material where helpful. First-hand studies were made as shown in Figure 1.

In the field work and in analyzing the data the constant effort was to point out and evaluate, as far as possible, the contribution of the several types of organizations and leadership to the various phases of Negro life in rural Virginia—economic, social and educational. Measurements have been based very largely on a set of criteria, recently formulated by Professor William E. Garnett, Rural Sociologist of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, in the following terms:

"Voluntary organizations should serve the cause of good country life by: (a) Carrying on a continuous program for well-rounded community development; (b) promoting an intelligent understanding of the best available information on all questions affecting rural interests; (c) furnishing a medium through which public agencies and institutions can effectively reach the people with their services, as well as helping such agencies and institutions to secure needed financial support for their work; (d) setting up and conducting an efficient system of co-operative buying and selling, and making provision on an equitable basis for certain essential services such as credit, insurance, telephone, electric power, and so on; (e) providing needed recreational activities; and (f) securing legislative measures favorable to rural interest, and defeating those injurious to such interest."<sup>3</sup>

Out of the total Virginia population of 2,421,851, around one-fourth (26.8 per cent) are Negroes. Negroes make up 26.7 of the rural population. Figure 1 shows their relative distribution by counties. Also the counties in which the Negro population is increasing or decreasing. Negroes are in a majority in 22 counties. In the last census period they increased in 22 counties and decreased in 78. The insert map of Figure 1 also shows the counties where material was collected for this study.

**Acknowledgments.** This study was made under the direction of Dr. William E. Garnett, Rural Sociologist of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and Dr. Ralph A. Felton, of the Rural Sociology Department of Drew University. Dr. John M. Gandy, President of the Virginia State College for Negroes, T. B. Patterson, and J. L. Charity, Negro district farm agents, and Miss Lizzie Jenkins, district home agent, G. W. Owens and J. R. Thomas, professors in the vocational education department of the Virginia State College for Negroes, and many local

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary report of the Committee for the Revision of the Rural Sociological section of the Virginia Five-Year Agricultural Program. *Mim. Circ. Va. Agr. Exp. Sta.*, 1931, p. 2.

organization leaders gave valuable assistance in furnishing data for the study. To them thanks are due, as well as to Clayton R. Watts and Paul E. Bohi, graduate students at Drew University, who helped in the preparation of the manuscript, and also to my mother whose encouragement made this work possible.

## HISTORICAL SURVEY OF TYPICAL ORGANIZATIONS

It is difficult to fix, with historic accuracy, the date when Negro organizations actually began, or to estimate the extent of their early development. Old documents that may be found here and there, however, warrant the conclusion that even in the pre-Civil War period there existed some bonds of association looking to Negro welfare.

### Beneficial Society of Free Men of Color

An example of such an association in those early days is the Beneficial Society of Free Men of Color, of the City of Petersburg and the State of Virginia. It is not known when this association started. The following excerpt is an account of the revision of its constitution, rules and regulations the second day of August, 1852.

**Bond of Association**—Whereas we, the subscribers, free men of color, of the city of Petersburg and state of Virginia, actuated by pure and honest motives, such as should predominate in the hearts of men stimulated by the love we feel for each other, have thought proper to unite ourselves together for the infusion of virtuous qualities, for the suppression of vice and immorality among our own class of people, and for the inculcation of every honest and correct principle that can render man good, respectable and happy; sensible as we are of the consummate ignorance that has too long pervaded the lives of many of us, but still inspired by that most noble principle in human nature, charity, we hope to surmount every impediment that may arise among ourselves, and manifest that we possess that love and fellow-feeling for each other, which nature has made the duty of every heart that is not callous to humanity; we have therefore concluded to associate together for the ostensible purpose of administering support to each other, when in sickness and necessity, under the name, title and distinction of the BENEFICIAL SOCIETY OF FREE MEN OF COLOR of the City of Petersburg and the State of Virginia.

The following summary gives the principal points in the constitution of this society :

- Article I. Name, who admitted, officers, etc.
  - Article II. Duties of officers.
  - Article III. Inauguration of the President.
  - Article IV. Time of meeting.
  - Article V. Order of business.
  - Article VI. Disorderly conduct and consequences.
- (Total number of Articles, 15)

Article XV. Dues and benefits to the Society and Members. Initiation fee ten dollars, contribution twenty-five cents per month. Every member entitled to a square in the place of interment wherein to inter his free parents. In the case of death his family shall have fifteen dollars (\$15) from the funds of this society, and his wife shall be entitled to one dollar per month so long as she remains a prudent widow. Should a member's wife depart this life, he shall have five dollars from the funds of this society. At the decease of a member necessary arrangements shall be made for the interment of said member. Every member shall



turn out at the funeral of a deceased member. At the funeral of a deceased member the President shall have the immediate supervision and control of the procession.<sup>1</sup>

### **The Moral Association**

The welfare idea is further illustrated by the Moral Association, organized in 1898. According to a public notice given out at the Shiloh Baptist Church, Fairfields, Northumberland County, Virginia, February 13, 1898, a largely-attended meeting of citizens of Fairfields met in the chapel February 18, 1898, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the moral condition of our people in this district." The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, Matrimony was instituted of God in the time of man's innocency and should be highly commended, but licentiousness should be abhorred as degrading in its tendency and ruinous in its consequences, and whereas we regard woman's virtue a priceless jewel, and of more value than either silver or gold, therefore, be it

Resolved: That we consider the man who will, by his attention to a woman lead her to believe that it is his desire to make her his companion for life, then rob her of her virtue and abandon her to fate, should be looked upon with scorn and contempt.

Resolved: That from this date any man who ruins the virtuous character of a woman and leads her to shame, shall not be a welcome visitor to our homes, but shall be considered as a vile libertine unworthy of the association of our daughters and our sisters, and should be shunned as unworthy of the recognition of a gentleman.

Resolved: That in the future we shall adhere to the sentiments expressed in these resolutions, and unto this end we pledge our word and sacred honor.

This meeting resulted in organizing the Moral Association which lasted for several years.<sup>2</sup>

### **Secret Organizations**

Organizations of a fraternal nature have been more numerous among rural Negroes than either the type referred to above or those of a more economic nature. The following list of such organizations indicates the emphasis on fraternal or secret societies: "Independent Order of St. Luke," "Supreme Order of St. Luke," "Shepherds and Daughters of Bethlehem," "National Ideal Benefit Society," "Grand United Order of Tents," "Supreme Order of King Davids," "Good Samaritans," "Odd Fellows," "Masons," "Knights of Pythias," "Knights of Jerusalem," "Benevolent Eagle Benefit Society," "Grand Temple and Tabernacle International Order of the Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor," "Grand United Order of the Children of Israel," "Imperial Order of Abraham," "Improved Chamber of Middlesex," "International Colored Fraternity," "Knights of Gideon," "Peoples Benevolent Fraternity,"

<sup>1</sup> The data presented above constitute only a part of this constitution. The original document is in the hands of a private colored family by the name of Jackson in the city of Petersburg.

<sup>2</sup> The promoters of the Association were named as its lecturers. The list included: S. A. Conway, J. R. Lewis, J. B. Haynie, G. Jackson, Wm. H. Lee, A. L. Flynt, Wm. H. Walker, J. T. Cockrell, W. W. Davenport, M. Matthias, Pyramus Lee, Louis Starvis, Henry Taylor, James Highlett, Humphrey Kent, Addison Conway, Henry Waddy, David Jackson, George Lawson, John Rudnall.

ever, is its firm support of the Piedmont Sanitarium at Burkeville, Virginia. Here is the fullest expression of its interest in promoting better health in Virginia.

## Agricultural Organizations and Educational Activities

### Agricultural Extension Work

Farmers' cooperative demonstration work in the South was begun in 1903. Booker T. Washington had a prominent part in this movement. Tuskegee Institute, which he founded in Alabama, already had carried instruction to Negro farmers through its faculty, through farm conferences at Tuskegee and in local communities, and through printed bulletins. Doctor Washington used a "Jessup Wagon"<sup>1</sup> provided with agricultural equipment to go out among farmers and demonstrate better farming methods. Thus in this early movement of the Extension Program in the South, Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee, H. B. Frissell of Hampton Institute, and Seaman A. Knapp of the United States Department of Agriculture worked out the relation of Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes with the United States Department of Agriculture and made arrangements for the appointment in 1906 of T. M. Campbell of Tuskegee as the first demonstration agent. A few days later J. B. Pierce of Hampton Institute was appointed. In speaking of Extension work a few years later, Dr. Washington said:

"It would be impossible to describe here all the ramifications or all the various forms which this work has taken in recent years. The thing that I wish to emphasize, however, is that we are seeking in this work less to teach (according to the old-fashioned method of teaching) than to improve conditions."

His was a spirit of service. In the same connection he expressed in the following excerpt an unusual and unique opinion of the pedagogy of extension work.<sup>2</sup>

"I have sometimes regarded it as a fortunate circumstance that I never studied pedagogy. If I had done so, every time I attempted to do anything in a new way I should have felt compelled to reckon with all the past, and in my case that would have taken so much time that I should never have gotten anywhere. As it was I was perfectly free to go ahead and do whatever seemed necessary at the time, without reference to whether that same thing had ever been done by anyone else at any previous time or not."

<sup>1</sup> Some twenty-five years ago Moriss Jessup, a New York philanthropist, donated money to put into operation the first "Movable School." This was known as the "Jessup Agricultural Wagon." Later on the movable school idea as projected by Tuskegee was found to be in harmony with those ideas advocated by the farmers' cooperative demonstration work under the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In order to extend the work, the Federal Government merged the two thoughts into one effort of reaching and teaching a still greater number of rural Negroes in their homes and on the farms. Then with the coming of good roads and the automobile the work was further accelerated by the purchase of a modern truck with funds donated by more than 30,000 Negro farmers and friends of Booker T. Washington.

This motorized school on wheels now financed by the Alabama Extension Service carries a complete stock of farm implements and home conveniences such as the average farmer will be able to purchase or construct and operate. The personnel of the school consists of three workers, a home demonstration agent, a farm demonstration agent, and a trained nurse. (Campbell, Thomas M.: "Negro Extension Work in N. B. C. Broadcast Feature." The Tuskegee Messenger, pp. 5-8, November issue, 1932.)

<sup>2</sup> Based on: "A Decade of Negro Extension Work, 1914-1924," pp. 3-5. Miscellaneous Circular No. 72, U. S. Dept. of Agri., 1926.



Dr. Washington's experience and observations constituted then, as now, great inspiration for Negro extension agents and educators generally.

**The Extension Organization.** After the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 providing for joint federal, state and locally-supported agricultural and home economics extension work in each state, a fairly well standardized plan of organization was developed. This plan includes a director of extension work and various types of specialists and supervisors in the United States Department of Agriculture, a state director, an assistant director, a director of home agent work, 4-H club agents, specialists of various types, district supervisors, and the farm and home agents. The Negro side of the work is under the immediate supervision of Negro district agents who in turn are under the general supervision of the state directors. In other words, the Negro extension workers are part of the official federal-state agricultural and home economics extension program and are responsible for getting over to their people the results and benefits of research of the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Experiment Stations. From its beginning until 1930 the headquarters of the Negro extension work in Virginia were located at Hampton Institute. They were then moved to the Virginia State College for Negroes, the Negro institution corresponding to V. P. I. in the family of agricultural colleges coordinating with the United States Department of Agriculture. The Negro agents, of course, have the use and benefit of all the bulletins and other material worked up by the United States Department of Agriculture and the experiment stations. The white agents usually give the Negro agents their sympathetic cooperation and encouragement.

In the early days of the extension work, the white agents attempted to work with the Negroes. But as the work developed it soon became apparent that Negro agents could get access to Negro homes better than anybody else. So Negro agents were appointed.

Today Virginia has twenty-five counties served by Negro agents and six with Negro home agents. The counties served by these agents are shown in Figure 2. On comparing this map with Figure 1, which gives the counties with considerable Negro population, it is seen that a majority of the counties with a large Negro population are served by such agents.

Many local leaders help with the extension program and various types of local organizations have been developed as channels through which to conduct the extension activities and as a means through which the leaders can coordinate and make more effective their efforts. A brief sketch of these follows.

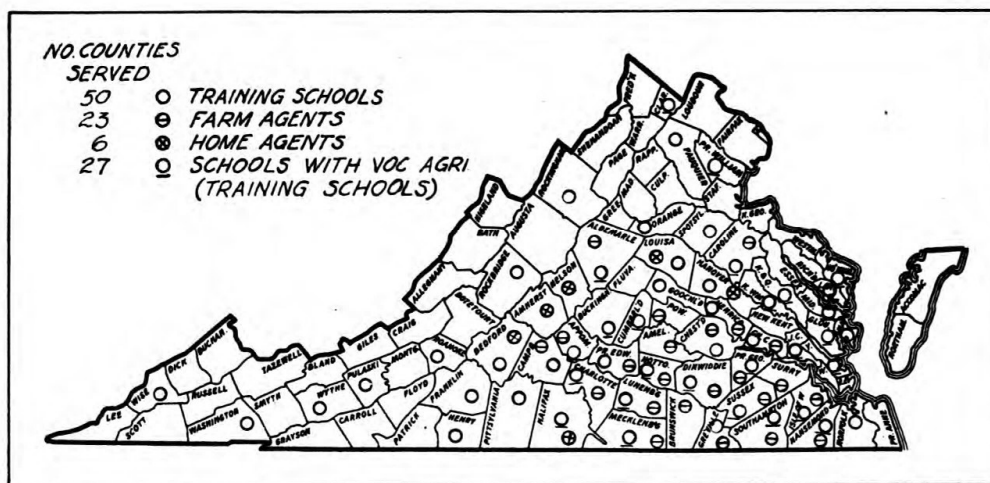


Fig. 2.—Training Schools, Farm Agents, Home Agents, Vocational Agricultural Departments

**The State Advisory Board.** The State Advisory Board is composed of the delegates from each county in which Extension Service is being carried on. The delegates consist of one farm man, one farm woman, and the county agents. This board meets several times a year. Its chief objectives are to outline programs for extension activities in the State, set up new goals, and organize methods of work. Here, too, the agents have the opportunity to discuss some of the especially perplexing problems that they may be confronting in their respective communities and receive suggestions for meeting them. Thus the Advisory Board becomes an agency for “social planning” and “social engineering.”

**The County Advisory Board.** The County Advisory Board is a similar unit of the extension program, except that it is more limited in its territorial scope. Its general purposes are: (1) To assist the rural people in raising their standard of living; (2) to put in force the adopted extension methods; (3) to bring to the masses methods of improvement in rural leadership; (4) to assist farmers in utilizing improved methods whereby the cost of production will be lowered; (5) to create a stronger desire for more practical methods in livestock farming so that agriculture may become a profitable business.

These county boards are the main support to the agents in conducting programs of a county-wide nature. Its membership is made up of delegates elected from the community clubs. In addition to these, the boards may elect to their membership men and women who are interested in rural betterment. County-wide activities for which boards are responsible are: Farmers' conferences, fairs, tours, local aid for extension work, encouraging boys and girls to attend high schools and co-

operating with other organizations in the county. Each board has an executive committee composed of the president, secretary and treasurer of the county organization. This committee works under the direction of the county agent.

**Community Clubs.** Community Clubs conducted under the auspices of the Extension Service play a big part in helping to brighten the lives of rural people. They are usually smaller organizations made up of farm people from various sections of the county. They are organized on the family basis. It is in these clubs that the farmers meet their friends in a social and recreational way. They engage in discussions, exchange ideas, "swap" stories and jokes and listen to programs that have been prepared for their benefit. These meetings and programs are usually worked out under the leadership of the county agent.

During the year 1930 there were 154 Negro community clubs in the state with a membership of 3,105 families. One county alone had ten organized farmers' clubs with a membership of 115 families.<sup>3</sup> Aside from its social emphasis, however, the main object of these clubs is to have all the farmers and club members of a given community work together in getting things done for the good of the whole community. This is done by having the members demonstrate to the farmers outside of the club and to the members themselves the better way of doing things they have already learned in farm practices.

**The County Fair.** The County Fair Association is rapidly becoming one of the permanent and effective organizations in the farming counties. The fair association is generally made up of well-known farmers throughout the county, but it also includes other business men who are interested in rural life progress.

The primary purpose of the fair is to bring to the public the advancement of the agricultural and educational program that is being conducted throughout the county. It further attempts to prove to the public that quality as well as quantity is essential in making farm products more profitable. A few excerpts from fair catalogues may reveal more definitely and clearly the purpose of the county fair and the favor that it is gaining in the various sections of the state.

"The Chesterfield County Fair Association (says Dr. John M. Gandy) is a permanent and successful organization. The growing interest in the Annual Fair is shown by the increase from year to year in both the quantity and quality of the exhibits. The purpose of the Annual Fair, however, has not been fully attained. Every teacher of the county, every child in the schools, every farmer and his wife, and all persons engaged in other pursuits should manifest increasing interest in its development. Instead of counting the persons who attend the Annual Fair by

---

<sup>3</sup> District Agents' Reports, 1930.

2,000, we should register them in terms of 4,000 and 5,000." (Dr. John M. Gandy, President of Virginia State College for Negroes; The Chesterfield Co. Fair Catalogue, 1930, p. 9.)

The purpose of this fair is to show what Colored people are doing to stimulate interest in better farming, better homes, better schools, and making better citizens. (Premium List of The Powhatan Co. Fair, 1930, p. 5.)

The prime object of the Fair is to show the public what has been accomplished in the homes, on the farm and in the school, and to stimulate friendly competition among exhibitors, thereby furnishing an incentive for the production of better results as the years go by. (The Charles City Co. Fair Premium List, 1930, p. 5.)

The Mecklenburg County Fair Association was organized in 1921 to promote agriculture and to encourage better farming; to promote public education and to insure county-wide cooperation in rural progress. (The Mecklenburg Co. Fair Premium List and Catalogue, 1930, p. 2.)

The object of the fair is to show as much as possible the progress made on farms, in the homes and in the schools. Friendly rivalry is an incentive for good fellowship among competitors and a stimulant for better productions. (The Caroline Co. Fair Catalogue, 1930, p. 3.)

In 1922-1923 ten local fairs drew crowds totaling 6,500; in 1923-1924 twenty fairs had an attendance of 11,500 people; and in 1924-1925 five fairs had an attendance of 9,500 people.<sup>4</sup>

In 1928 one fair had a daily attendance, for two days, of 1,500 people, and a display of 1,400 products. These displays consisted of farm products, home garden products, cattle, hogs, poultry, domestic art products and county school work.

In 1930 one fair was held for one day only. It brought together 817 public school children and 4-H club members. The estimated attendance was 1,050 persons. The program was divided into two parts, the farm, and the school.<sup>5</sup>

These facts indicate that the county fair is not only becoming more and more a permanent rural organization, but that it is serving the rural sections as a definitely educative and socializing agency.

**The Farmers' Conference.** The Farmers' Conference is made up of the working group of leaders who follow up and attend the programs planned by the Executive Committee of the County Advisory Board. This body of workers is busy the year round. It has stated meetings four times a year. Thus, its main purpose is to hold meetings in various sections of the county to acquaint farmers with new methods and practices in farming.

Much preparation is made for these conferences. They are usually widely advertised through the local papers, notices are given out at churches, circular programs are printed and distributed. The farmers look forward to them with a great deal of anticipation because they are gala days in their calendar. The farmer is inspired by the speeches, emo-

<sup>4</sup> Le Beau, R. C., The Development of Agricultural Instruction Under the Smith-Hughes Act Among Negroes, p. 127; Unpublished M. A. thesis, Ohio State Univ., 1931.

<sup>5</sup> District Agents' Report, 1930.



tionally stimulated by meeting his friends and educated by the demonstrations. It is a day of recreation and relaxation.

The following statements from a few of the advertisement circulars and programs will indicate something of the elaborate preparation and attractiveness of the conferences.

July 27-28th, 1927

THE MEETING THAT APPEALS TO NANSEMOND AND  
ADJOINING COUNTIES. TO ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE  
STRIVING TO REACH THE TOPMOST ROUND IN FARM-  
ING, BUSINESS OR ANY OTHER ENTERPRISE NEAR  
HERE

And witness the largest crowd of  
the summer  
We desire to meet you  
We desire to know who you are and  
what you represent

COME

And see your friends whom you have  
not seen since last July  
And hear the speaking and singing  
and enjoy the fruits of the season

We are making great preparation for your two days of  
Pleasure and Rest. A committee will serve dinner that will  
please your taste and help the church.

PRIZES FOR THE OLDEST MAN AND WOMAN ON THE GROUNDS  
BE ON TIME AND HEAR THE PROGRAMME

---

COUNTY

FARMERS CONFERENCE

Will be held at

The County Training School

Victoria, Virginia

Friday, July 27, 1928

Important lectures and demonstrations of value  
to every farmer and his wife will be given on  
Soil Improvement, More Eggs in Winter, the  
Year-Round Garden, Care of the Family Cow  
and other subjects of interest.

---

Notice

Notice

Notice

All are cordially invited to attend Union Branch  
Farmers' Conference and Sunday School Picnic.  
Thursday, August 12, 1926  
At Union Branch Church

---

Program

Opening exercises  
Welcome address  
Response  
Object of meeting  
What Crops Feed Me—  
How and Where they are  
grown

Remarks (Discussion)

Making the Farm Pay

Free Dinner with Brunswick Stew Served. Plenty  
of refreshments.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LUNENBURG FARMERS  
The annual Farmers Conference of Lunenburg County  
will be held at the  
County Training School  
Victoria, Virginia  
July 23rd, 1926—9 A. M.

---

Program

Welcome address  
Response  
Importance of Using  
Lime (Hay)  
How to Grow Corn  
Encourage the Boy to  
Stay on the Farm  
The Importance of Having  
a Good Poultry Yard  
The Proper Care of Hogs  
A Good Milk Cow

The farmer's wives are asked to bring baskets.

It may be seen, from these samples, that the farmers' conference holds a unique place in the extension program. It may be said to act as a body for holding extension leaders together while promoting new methods in farming.

**Four-H Clubs.** The 4-H club work is regarded as one of the most important phases of the extension movement. While club work in Virginia has not progressed among Negroes as fast as its leaders desire, it is nevertheless making appreciable gains each year. According to the report of the District Agent for 1932, there were 292 clubs in 31 counties with a membership of 6,197 boys and girls. In 1922 the enrollment was 3,215. It almost doubled in ten years.

The 4-H's of the club emblem which stand for head, hand, heart and health are also designed to show the 4-H objectives: The head H standing for education and training to think; the hand H standing for useful work; the heart H for kindness and sympathy; and the health H for personal efficiency and training in health laws.<sup>6</sup>

The 4-H club organization is a working group of boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 20 years. The general purpose of the club is to give to adolescent boys and girls in rural communities an opportunity for self-expression and recreation. It aims to develop the qualities of leadership and create appreciation for cooperative effort. It helps young people to realize that joy and happiness may be gotten from country life.

The 4-H club work is carried on through a system of closely-related activities. Chief among them are: Home projects, club meetings, demonstrations, exhibits, contests, rallies, and short courses.

---

<sup>6</sup> Garnett, W. E., Young People's Organizations in Relation to Rural Life in Virginia With Special Reference to 4-H Clubs. Bulletin 274, p. 7. Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Blacksburg, Va., 1930.



In the projects the club members undertake to carry out at their homes, under the agents' direction, some definite type of work or demonstration as, for example, the growing of an acre of corn, the raising of a pig, the making of attractive, economical clothes for the club girl, or the improving of the girl's bedroom. Each member is expected to keep a record covering the several phases of the work, including cost, and also to write up a project report or story at its conclusion. Less emphasis is now put on the story than was the case a few years ago.<sup>7</sup>

Four-H club meetings are usually in charge of the club officers but supervised by the local leader or agent. The program generally consists of a brief business session, literary program, recreation features and the serving of refreshments. Picnics and trips are frequent features of the club activities.

**County Junior Councils.** The County-wide Junior Council is a part of the machinery developed for fostering 4-H club work in the counties. The council is composed of two club members and the club leader of each 4-H club in the county. The council meets several times a year with the county agent to consider plans and to find the most effective ways of conducting the club work during the year.

**The State Short Course.** Each year the clubs from over the state send representatives to an annual meeting held at the Virginia State College for Negroes. This meeting is known as the "State Short Course." Previous to 1930 these meetings were held at Hampton Institute. Attending the State Short Course is one of the high points in the club member's experience, and as such is eagerly looked forward to by all. The meeting is educational and recreational. Intensive daily instruction along the lines of their home projects is given by various extension specialists. Other features of the meeting are special talks, reports from the different counties represented, special demonstrations, committee work, group songs, games and stunts. The voluntary leaders attending, aside from participating in the main club features, have a number of meetings of their own on leadership problems.

The open-air vespers held each evening and the club parade are among the most impressive features of the whole program. A neat uniform is worn by all the boys and girls in attendance. Several types of contests are held and prizes are given to the winners.

The tenth Annual State Short Course was held July 19-21, 1932. Two hundred and fifty-six delegates from twenty-eight counties attended. This number included twenty-six farm and home agents, one hundred and fifteen girls, eighty boys, six drivers, and the field and district agents. The program consisted of setting-up exercises before breakfast, followed by demonstrations and judging by county teams. In addition there were periods for games, an oratorical contest and a leaders' conference.

---

<sup>7</sup> Garnett, W. E., Op. cit., p. 11.

Vespers were held on the lawn each evening. "Growth Work" was the main topic of the short course. Special talks for the girls and for the boys were given by members of the faculty of the State College.

Summer school with more than five hundred teachers in attendance was in session at this time at the State College. This made it possible to let a large number of people know what the 4-H clubs aim to do for the rural boy and girl. Many commendatory statements came from the faculty members and students of the summer school. Such comments as these were heard: "This is the cleanest and best-behaved group we have ever had at the college." "I have heard of 4-H clubs but I never knew that they covered such a wide range and did such splendid work with young people."<sup>8</sup> The Candle Lighting Ceremony on the last evening brought the Short Course to an end, and sent the delegates homeward with a greater zeal for "making their best better." Table 6 shows the growth of Negro 4-H club work over a period of ten years.

In his club study Dr. Garnett states that the holding power of clubs may be judged in three ways: (1) The per cent completing projects and making reports; (2) the number enrolling for succeeding years; (3) numbers in the older age groups. Approximately three out of four of those enrolled completed projects in 1929, except in the case of Negro girls where the proportion was about three out of five.<sup>9</sup> He also pointed out that Negroes tend to stay in club work longer than the whites.<sup>10</sup> Table 7 gives data by counties showing relative numbers staying in the work two or more years. The constant falling off in numbers may be due to indifference on the part of parents or the inability of the girls and boys to adapt themselves to 4-H club demands and programs. In some cases it may be due to the lack of sufficiently strong local volunteer leadership or the lack of support from community teachers and ministers.

The effectiveness of clubs may also be indicated by the financial returns of club members. In 1929, club boys through their agents reported crops worth \$54,759 and livestock worth \$15,634. The net profits on the former were \$34,093 and the latter \$9,141. Two hundred twenty-five dollars in prizes were won on livestock.

The girls reported products valued at \$14,194.70 with net profits of \$8,571.92, not including prizes which were valued at \$369. Further analysis of the financial returns shows that club members averaged \$25.42 per member for their products and \$15.61 for profits.

<sup>8</sup> Circular, Tenth Annual State Short Course for Negro Boys and Girls of the 4-H Clubs, July 19-21, 1932.

<sup>9</sup> Garnett, W. E., *Op. cit.*, pp. 25-26.

<sup>10</sup> *ibid.*, p. 26.

For the year ending 1932, district agents' reports show that under the women agents in six counties 92 clubs had an enrollment of 646 boys and 1,395 girls, a total of 2,041.<sup>12</sup>

Tables 8, 9, and 10 give a summary picture of the Negro 4-H club work for 1932 under the men agents. The projects included corn, cotton, cowpeas, gardens, soybeans, peanuts and yard beautification; fat pig, dairy calf, and poultry. The market value of these products was estimated to be \$58,497.00 with a profit of \$25,273.00. In addition they won \$293.00 in cash prizes.<sup>13</sup> Clubs raised \$666.00 for activities such as trips and picnics.<sup>14</sup> Projects were completed by 3,600.

**Table 6.—Growth of Negro 4-H Clubs, 1923-1932**

YEAR	Number of Members	Number of Clubs	Counties With Work
1923.....	1244	90	21
1924.....	1225	124	23
1925.....	1471	122	23
1926.....	1824	215	24
1927.....	2193	159	24
1928.....	2151	177	25
1929.....	2796	199	25
1930.....	4071	246	31
1931.....	4999	270	31
1932.....	6197	292	31
Per cent Increase 1923-1932 .....	398.1	224.4	47.6

**Table 7.—Enrollment of 2,921 Club Members under Negro Men Agents by Years in Work, and By Counties With Work**

COUNTY	Years in Work				Over 4	Total
	1	2	3	4		
Albemarle.....	109	54	27	6	6	202
Appomattox.....	26	55	42	9	17	149
Brunswick.....	18	26	26	8	..	78
Caroline.....	89	30	27	..	..	146
Charles City.....	60	26	29	11	2	128
Charlotte.....	49	37	31	7	..	124
Chesterfield.....	118	28	22	9	8	185
Dinwiddie.....	19	53	32	24	..	128
Gloucester.....	33	20	6	5	..	64
Greensville.....	30	15	12	2	16	75
Isle of Wight.....	41	64	13	41	26	185
Lunenburg.....	19	32	19	13	..	83
Mecklenburg.....	13	44	49	16	23	145
Nansemond.....	74	42	199	22	2	339
Nottoway.....	58	53	29	10	3	153
Powhatan.....	61	31	26	3	14	135
Prince Edward.....	25	36	34	27	8	130
Southampton.....	147	74	..	..	..	221
Surry.....	59	53	21	14	28	175
Sussex.....	19	15	17	17	8	76
Total.....	1,067	788	661	244	161	2,921

<sup>12</sup> District Agent's Office, Va. State College for Negroes. Special Communication, Feb. 8, 1932.

<sup>13</sup> Montgomery, C. A., Ass't. Director of Boys Club Work. Va. Agri. Ext. Div. Personal communication, Jan. 31, 1933.

<sup>14</sup> Charity, John L., District Agent, personal communication, Feb. 6, 1933.

Table 8.—Enrollment in Crop Projects, Acreage and Yield, 1932

PROJECT	Boys	Girls	No. Acres	Yield
Corn.....	986	....	1,089	29,762 bu.
Cotton.....	68	....	78	95,229 lbs.
Cowpeas.....	23	....	17	142 bu.
Garden.....	173	625	398	.....
Field beans.....	4	....	3	36 bu.
Soybeans.....	10	....	10	54 bu.
Irish potatoes.....	78	7	37	2,602 bu.
Sweet potatoes.....	41	6	25	957 bu.
Peanuts.....	229	....	209	10,143 bags
Tobacco.....	9	....	9	4,800 lbs.
Yard beautification.....	1	33	....	.....
Total.....	1,622	671	1,875	.....

Table 9.—Financial Statement for Crop Projects

PROJECT	Value	Cost	Profit	Prizes
Corn.....	\$14,881.00	\$ 9,460.00	\$ 5,421.00	\$ 137.00
Cotton.....	1,728.00	882.00	846.00	5.00
Cowpeas.....	166.00	151.00	15.00	6.00
Garden.....	14,638.00	8,249.00	6,389.00	15.00
Field beans.....	36.00	10.00	26.00	.....
Soybeans.....	94.00	101.00	loss	.....
Irish potatoes.....	1,760.00	1,783.00	loss	4.00
Sweet potatoes.....	586.00	375.00	211.00	5.00
Peanuts.....	5,859.00	3,380.00	2,479.00	92.00
Tobacco.....	700.00	240.00	360.00	.....
Yard beautification.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	\$40,448.00	\$24,631.00	\$15,747.00	\$ 264.00

Note: Similar data not available for the 2041 club members working under the supervision of the six Negro home demonstration agents. Their work was largely in home economic projects, though many had poultry and garden projects.

Table 10.—Enrollment in Animal Projects, 1932

PROJECT	Boys	Girls	Number Animals
Fat pig.....	267	15	336
Breeding pig.....	5	....	5
Sow and litter.....	7	1	52
Dairy calf.....	4	2	6
Poultry.....	143	901	23,959
Total.....	426	919	24,358

Table 11.—Financial Statement for Animal Projects<sup>1</sup>

PROJECT	Value	Cost	Profit	Prizes
Fat pig.....	\$ 3,576.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,676.00	\$ 5.00
Breeding pig.....	65.00	49.00	16.00	.....
Sow and litter.....	306.00	130.00	176.00	.....
Dairy calf.....	303.00	138.00	165.00	.....
Poultry.....	14,249.00	6,756.00	7,493.00	24.00
Total.....	\$18,499.00	\$ 8,973.00	\$ 9,526.00	\$29.00

<sup>1</sup> Source of data: Montgomery, C. A., Ass't. Director, Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Blacksburg, Va. Special communication, February 2, 1933.



### Vocational Agricultural Work

Vocational agriculture for Negroes has been carried on chiefly through the county training schools. Their program is similar to that of the whites carried on in the vocational departments of high schools.

**The County Training School.** A county training school is commonly thought of as a central rural public school which offers instruction in both elementary and high school subjects. In the beginning, of course, none of these schools offered more than one or two years of high school work.

This type of rural school for Negroes of the South had its origin in 1911, six years before the Smith-Hughes Act was passed by the Federal congress. By the time the Smith-Hughes Act was passed in 1917, Virginia had seven county training schools.<sup>1</sup> The courses of study followed by these central schools included some nature study, gardening and general agriculture. Each of the school grounds was sufficiently large to permit space for demonstration purposes. Home projects were likewise encouraged and carried on under the direction of teachers. It is apparent, then, that these schools helped to prepare the way for the Smith-Hughes work in the state. With the coming of the Smith-Hughes work the training schools became the logical centers for the establishment of vocational agriculture.<sup>2</sup>

In 1930 there were training schools in fifty counties.<sup>3</sup> Their distribution is shown in Figure 2. In 1930-1931 four of the county training schools having vocational agricultural departments were listed as accredited high schools.<sup>4</sup> Several others were almost ready to qualify.<sup>5</sup>

The vocational agriculture school program is an integral part of the public school system, headed by the State Department of Education. Through the State Board of Education it has definite connection with the Federal Board of Vocational Education from which it receives financial support and advice. Its standards are also set by the Federal Board.

**Relation of the 4-H Club Program and the Vocational Agricultural Program.** Just as the 4-H clubs are not officially connected with the public school system, so the school vocational agricultural departments are not officially connected with the Agricultural College and the United States Department of Agriculture. On the other hand, there is much

<sup>1</sup> Nottoway, Albemarle, Caroline, York, Middlesex, Charles City and Sussex. These schools are named for the county in which they are located.

<sup>2</sup> Le Beau, R. C., *The Development of Agricultural Instruction Under the Smith-Hughes Act Among Negroes in Virginia*. M. A. Thesis (unpublished) Ohio State Univ. 1932, pp. 147, 149.

<sup>3</sup> Circular, State Board of Education, 1930.

<sup>4</sup> Charles City, Gloucester, James City and Middlesex.

<sup>5</sup> Le Beau, Op. cit., p. 150.

freedom in the exchange of contacts and unofficial relationships. Vocational teachers are trained in the Agricultural College. Results of the work of the various divisions of the state experiment stations and the United States Department of Agriculture are freely available to the vocational teachers.

The club work is entirely on a voluntary basis whereas the students in the vocational courses are under the usual school regulations when once they have enrolled in the vocational department.

The vocational departments have a system of records and reports that apply to both students and teachers. They are followed up and rigidly checked by expert supervisors who also render them such aid as may be needed in carrying out their work.

Among the primary purposes of the vocational program is the offer of systematic and definitely-organized instruction; therefore, it has set up very high standards to which it rigidly adheres. The prospective teachers in the field pursue courses of training in college which are supplemented by a period of practice teaching under critical supervision. Itinerant teachers spend much of their time in checking up on the methods and giving help in case of weaknesses and need of such help. Annual and district conferences are held for the purpose of discussing educational methods. Efficiency rating scales have also been developed as well as a salary advancement scale "both of which have been powerful factors in influencing standards."<sup>6</sup>

It is thus seen that the vocational program is one of intensive technical instruction. The vocational teachers spend much time with the students and supervise closely their projects or enterprises throughout the major part of the year. The 4-H club work is more extensive and has as its major purpose the serving of the relatively large group who have neither the time nor the desire for the intensive type of education emphasized by the vocational program. In their contacts with the parents of the boys the agricultural teachers exert a considerable influence on them as well. In fact, they tend to become outstanding community leaders.

**New Farmers of America in Virginia.** The organization for white boys in vocational agriculture is known as the F. F. A., or the Future Farmers of America. In 1926, under the leadership of Professor Henry C. Groseclose, itinerant teacher-trainer for the whites, and Professor George W. Owens, itinerant teacher-trainer for Negroes, the organization known as N. F. A. (New Farmers of America in Virginia) was es-

---

<sup>6</sup> Garnett, W. E., *Op. cit.*, p. 55.



established.<sup>7</sup> The organization is somewhat fraternal in nature. The number of local chapters has grown rapidly so that in 1930-1931 there were twenty-five in the state, with a membership of 552. The organization conducts rallies, holds father-and-son banquets and sponsors picnics. It also publishes a bi-monthly paper, the "Chapter Chats." Among its most important features is its emphasis on thrift bank savings.

**Objectives.** The N. F. A. give these reasons for its existence. "As students of vocational agriculture and future citizens of Virginia, we sincerely believe that the future success of the race lies to a large extent in our ability to become better farmers, hence we have named our organization, The New Farmers of America in Virginia.

"Many great leaders like Booker T. Washington, R. R. Morton, G. W. Carver and a host of others, loved country life and held the opinion that intelligence and scientific knowledge are necessary to proper living in the country. To this idea they devoted every energy of head, hand and heart."

Each live chapter of the N. F. A. has a regular program of activities which it carries out. Among these are such features as: Maintaining bulletin boards for farmers, marketing eggs and other products co-operatively, father-and-son banquets, vacation tours, school ground improvement, cooperative buying, stage plays and pageants, holding public debates on agricultural topics, community service, organizing and maintaining thrift banks, boosting the department of vocational agriculture, putting on demonstrations and exhibits at fairs, and patron's day.

**Membership.** In the N. F. A. there are three grades of active membership based on achievement. These grades are: First, Farm Hand; second, Improved Farmer; and third, Modern Farmer. Only members who have attained the grade of Modern Farmer are eligible to hold offices in the state organization.

The qualifications for membership in the different degrees of the N. F. A. are determined very largely by the following factors:

- a. Number of years enrolled in vocational agricultural instruction.
- b. The scope or size of the crop or animal project carried out, the efficiency shown in operations and results in economic returns.

<sup>7</sup> New Farmers of Virginia (N. F. V.) was the first name given the Student Agricultural Organization when it was formed in 1926. It was known by that name until the National Organization was formed a few years later. The name was then changed to N. F. A. (New Farmers of America). So it is now referred to as N. F. A. In speaking of the state association the designation "Virginia Association of New Farmers in America" is used. Virginia belongs to what is known as a Sectional Organization since the National Organization is composed of about three or four Sectional Organizations. A truly National Organization, as such, has not yet been formed. Soon after the plan for a student organization, (F. F. A.) First Farmers of America, was worked out by its founder, Mr. Groseclose of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, itinerant teacher-trainer, and adopted by the white teachers, it was carried to the colored boys of the state by Mr. George W. Owens of Virginia State College for Negroes, itinerant teacher-trainer for colored boys. With the assistance of Mr. J. R. Thomas, teacher-trainer at the Virginia State College for Negroes, Mr. Owens drew up the plans for the organization. Mr. Owens is largely responsible for the development of the organization in Virginia and was also instrumental in forming the National (sectional) Organization. (Thomas, J. R., who with Professor Owens kindly furnished the material for the following sketch of the organization.)

- c. The money saved and deposited in banks or productively invested, \$25 being the minimum in the second degree and \$100 in the third degree.
- d. Scholarship standing in the various subjects.
- e. Active participation in athletic, literary, or other extra-curricular activities.
- f. Evidences and ability in leadership and promise of future usefulness.

Each degree has its pin or badge of bronze, silver or gold, with the state organization's insignia—an owl seated on a plow with a rising sun and the motto, "Knowledge and Labor" and the letters N. F. A. engraved thereon.

The first two degrees are conferred in the local chapters with proper initiation ceremonies. The third degree, or that of Modern Farmer, is conferred only at the state rally in Petersburg. This degree is limited to the best eight active members of the whole state. The honorary degree includes instructors, school principals, school superintendents, business men, farmers and others who are helping to promote vocational agriculture.

In 1932 the N. F. A. of Virginia had 767 members distributed as follows: Clod Hoppers (uninitiated members), 222; Farm Hands, 304; Improved Farmers, 223; and Modern Farmers, 18.

In addition to the active Modern Farmers, the State Organization has also granted the degree of Honorary Modern Farmer to six persons (the constitutional limit being two each year). These are in 1927, Prof. J. P. Burley of Albemarle County and the oldest colored vocational teacher in the South, and G. W. Owen, teacher-trainer. In 1928, to Prof. J. R. Thomas, vocational teacher and assistant teacher-trainer at State College, and Rev. L. L. Davis, former vocational teacher of Caroline County, a successful leader for thirty-eight years, and for eight years a vocational teacher. In 1929 the Honorary Modern Farmer degree was conferred upon Dr. J. M. Gandy, president of Virginia State College for Negroes, for promoting and encouraging agricultural development, and also upon Prof. J. A. Oliver, vocational teacher in Charles City County, for ten years a very efficient, intelligent, progressive, young educator.

**Achievements.** Perhaps one of the greatest benefits resulting from the organization of the N. F. A. has been to establish in the minds of its members new ideas and conceptions regarding the possibilities and opportunities in agricultural education, rural life and leadership, also pride in their vocational practices and achievements.

The splendid results reported from the N. F. A. chapters in stimulating and vitalizing the vocational program in agricultural education, have already justified the efforts put forth in promoting the organization. From a few members the N. F. A. have increased to about seven hun-

dred. This does not include adult vocational students in evening classes, nor many boys as yet in day-unit and part-time classes numbering some 500.

In the first year with about 500 N. F. A. members, the total bank deposits and investments were \$17,867.94 out of a goal of \$20,000 for July 1, 1927. This does not include profits from projects which were \$57,359. The early report for 1929 showed the following returns: Savings \$12,335.46; farming investments \$32,734.99; securities \$5,125.49, and betterments \$12,877.93, or a grand total of \$63,073.87.<sup>8</sup>

A further picture of the results of the school work in vocational agriculture and of the N. F. A. chapters is afforded by Tables 12 to 15.

The growth of the State N. F. A. Association as shown by the amount of money needed to put over this program is indicated by the following figures:

Year	Amount Collected From Chapters as Dues	Amount Expended for Various Expenses in Carrying Out Program
1928 .....	\$119.80	\$100.00
1929 .....	192.15	51.35
1930 .....	343.08	279.85
1931 .....	401.25	334.86
1932 .....	430.00	217.00

The high team scores in judging contest ranged from 934 points in 1929 to 2,712 points in 1932 for the team placing first, as compared to 717 points in 1927 and 2,313 points in 1932 for team with 10th place. The highest individual score jumped from 342 points in 1929 to 992 points in 1932. The ten N. F. A. members having the highest savings accounts ranged from \$205.00 to \$985.00; while the ten highest thrift bank accounts ranged from \$867.55 to \$2,415.00.

One of the important features of the N. F. A. work is that of thrift. Thrift banks are organized in all chapters and operated throughout the year. The following data represent, for the state as a whole, the significance of these thrift banks. The figures were reported by teachers but no way has been devised yet to check their accuracy, hence they may not be absolutely correct. However, they do represent a partial picture of the size of this movement. This is shown in Tables 16 and 17.

<sup>8</sup> July issue of the Chapter Chats, Department of Agr. Education of Virginia State College, and the State Board of Voc. Edu., 1931.

**Table 12.—Individuals Reached in Federally-Aided Negro Schools in Virginia, 1918-1930<sup>1</sup>**

SCHOOL YEAR	Number of Individuals Reached Through:					Number of Agricultural Teachers	Average number Reached per Instructor
	All-Day Classes	Day Unit Classes	Part-Time Classes	Evening Classes	All Classes		
1918-19.....	62	...	...	...	62	5	16
1919-20.....	94	...	...	...	94	5	19
1920-21.....	101	...	...	...	101	5	20
1921-22.....	156	...	...	...	156	8	20
1922-23.....	210	27	...	...	237	10	24
1923-24.....	310	67	...	17	394	13	30
1924-25.....	377	84	...	42	503	15	34
1925-26.....	421	125	18	188	752	17	44
1926-27.....	450	175	54	135	812	18	45
1927-28.....	577	196	40	223	1,036	21	49
1928-29.....	603	264	26	407	1,300	22	59
1929-30.....	678	243	8	428	1,357	25	54
Totals.....	4,059	1,179	146	1,440	6,824	164	42

<sup>1</sup> Le Beau, R. C., Op. cit., Table 43.

**Table 13.—Scope of Agricultural Projects Completed in Federally-Aided Negro Schools in Virginia, by Years, 1919-1929<sup>1</sup>**

Year and Kind	All-Day Classes	Day-Unit Classes	Part-Time Classes	Evening Classes	Yearly Total
1919-20					
Acres .....	71.57	.....	.....	.....	71.57
Animals .....	32	.....	.....	.....	32
Birds .....	164	.....	.....	.....	164
1920-21					
Acres .....	80.85	.....	.....	.....	80.85
Animals .....	90	.....	.....	.....	90
Birds .....	174	.....	.....	.....	174
1921-22					
Acres .....	133.39	.....	.....	.....	133.39
Animals .....	46	.....	.....	.....	46
Birds .....	437	.....	.....	.....	437
1922-23					
Acres .....	220.27	9.76	.....	.....	230.03
Animals .....	40	1	.....	.....	41
Birds .....	420	29	.....	.....	449
1923-24					
Acres .....	310.74	23.43	.....	1.50	335.67
Animals .....	83	1	.....	4	88
Birds .....	850	160	.....	.....	1,010
1924-25					
Acres .....	663.84	50.50	.....	39.50	753.84
Animals .....	80	4	.....	.....	84
Birds .....	861	214	.....	.....	1,075
1925-26					
Acres .....	671.60	129.25	33.00	422	1,265.85
Animals .....	311	7	.....	240	558
Birds .....	2,040	122	.....	1,759	3,921
1926-27					
Acres .....	754.20	224.80	137.50	441.20	1,557.70
Animals .....	151	23	26	3	203
Birds .....	2,375	641	25	3,798	6,839
1927-28					
Acres .....	869.60	246.20	46.45	757.50	1,908.75
Animals .....	145	44	7	22	218
Birds .....	2,216	1,058	70	5,272	8,616
1928-29					
Acres .....	1,145.50	202	24	780.25	2,151.75
Animals .....	44	56	.....	70	170
Birds .....	6,703	1,325	100	17,251	25,379
Totals					
Acres .....	4,911.56	885.94	239.95	2,441.95	8,479
Animals .....	1,022	136	33	339	1,530
Birds .....	16,240	3,549	195	28,080	48,084

<sup>1</sup> Le Beau, R. C., Op. cit., Table 44.



**Table 14.—Enterprise Returns, 1930-1931**

	All-Day and Part-Time Class	Evening Classes
Number of acres cultivated .....	1,944	523
Number of animals raised .....	53	15
Number of poultry raised .....	12,664	24,004
Project income .....	\$35,629	\$6,524

**Table 15.—Growth and Strength of N. F. A., 1926-1931**

	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Number of Chapters .....	18	21	23	25	25	27
Total membership .....	577	603	637	560	637	666
Number Modern Farmers degrees awarded .....	8	8	8	8	15	15
Number Modern Farmers in:						
Agricultural College .....	3	2	1	2	1	0
Farming .....	3	1	3	1	1	0
Voc. Agr. in H. S. ....	0	2	1	4	13	15
Elsewhere .....	2	3	3	1	0	0

**Table 16.—Growth of Thrift Bank, 1928-1932**

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932
Savings .....	\$ 8,332.64	\$ 7,326.49	\$12,220.03	\$21,791.25	\$12,985.71
Farming .....	31,384.02	28,266.02	18,999.96	32,988.03	21,861.41
Securities .....	4,001.10	3,483.08	13,398.65	15,927.51	12,975.59
Betterment .....	7,923.24	7,971.64	12,282.32	16,696.62	17,644.40
Total .....	51,641.00	47,047.23	56,900.96	87,403.41	65,467.11

**Table 17.—Thrift Bank Accounts of the Twelve Highest Chapters**

Chapters	Amount
Charles City .....	\$12,127.25
York .....	12,047.61
Sussex .....	11,042.00
Caroline .....	10,900.00
Cumberland .....	8,595.00
Nansemond .....	4,820.00
Virginia State .....	4,639.40
Manassas .....	4,341.69
Gloucester .....	3,347.02
Mecklenburg .....	3,294.00
Albemarle .....	2,599.61
Nottoway .....	2,564.00

The following brief history of the young men who were elevated to the degree of Modern Farmer will show some of the accomplishments and qualifications of the young men in the N. F. A. organization.

**W. D. Jones** is now completing his four years' work in agriculture at Virginia State College. He is president of the local chapter and has always been a strong supporter of the work of his group and has served on many and various important committees. He has taken considerable interest in the group project work done by the vocational students. Last year he devoted 554 hours to his project work on

the school farm. He has done splendid work in classes and has an average grade of B. He is contemplating farming after this year and has made an excellent start towards this objective as he now has \$1,400 invested in land and livestock.

**Paul R. Irving** studied vocational agriculture one year in the Prince George County Training School and is now completing his third year at the Virginia State College. He is at present secretary of his local chapter and has served on many important committees. He has represented his chapter on judging teams and on athletic teams on several occasions. Paul has been very successful in supervised practice work and has made more than \$600 net profit from three years of projects. He is contemplating entering upon farming after graduating, and now has invested \$1,482 in farming and has a savings account of \$150.

**Haley Smith** of Nansemond County is another one of those good boys who have been coming from the County of Nansemond. He has, during three years of supervised practice work, taken care of 30 acres of crops and 52 head of livestock. In his three years of supervised practice work he has devoted 4,350 hours to his work and has realized a net profit of more than \$2,000. He is now president of his local chapter and has represented his school on judging teams and athletic teams.

**Richard Lewis** of Nansemond County has the enviable record of having farmed 15 acres of land and taken care of 8 head of livestock for his supervised practice work over a period of three years. In addition to this, during the last year he was superintendent of a 51-acre farm. He has been quite industrious and devoted more than 2,000 hours to project work over three years, which have brought him in a total net profit of \$1,165. His savings account, investment in farming, insurance, and so forth, are in excess of \$900. He has been president of his local chapter for one year and active in other student organizations.

**Noel Trent** of Cumberland County is an example of grit and determination. He has taken care of the major portion of the farming operations on his home farm for the past three or four years. He has been very active in Sunday school work and was president of the Athletic Association of his school in addition to holding office in his local chapter. His investments in savings and farming at present amount to over \$1,000.

**W. H. Winston** of Cumberland appears to have had a corner on many of the offices in his school and community. He has held positions as treasurer and chaplain in local societies besides having been superintendent of a Sunday school, president of the Junior League for five years and president of his local chapter for four years. His scholarship has been of high grade and he has conducted continuation projects in corn, hogs and tobacco for a period of five years.

**DeForest Booker** leads the Cumberland group in scholarship with an average grade of B plus for all subjects. He has been quite active in the affairs of his chapter and his school and has held five offices having been re-elected to several of them for additional terms. He has conducted successful projects in tobacco, hogs, wheat and corn crops, and has invested \$525 in savings, farming and betterments.

**Norman C. Booker** of Cumberland has conducted some very satisfactory and worthwhile projects in corn, tobacco, potatoes and hogs. He has averaged more than three enterprises each year while studying vocational agriculture and has devoted, each year while studying, 1,250 hours to his work, realizing a profit of \$370. He now has \$350 invested in farming and \$500 in saving accounts.

The combined service of these young men represents five years of service as superintendents of Sunday schools, nine years as treasurer, ten years as secretaries, four years as vice-presidents and nineteen years as president of local chapters and local organizations. The combined project work of the group embraced the production of 126 acres of crops and caring for 67 head of livestock. They have devoted 11,385 hours to their projects and have realized a profit of \$5,580 from their toil. Their present profitable investments total \$10,328 of which \$1,640 is in savings and \$5,615 in farming.

**Methods of Stimulating Interest.** In order to promote a healthy emulation among the members of the various chapters to develop skill and accuracy in agricultural arts, skill and practices, an annual judging

contest is held at the State College in which the vocational boys from the various schools compete in judging farm products consisting of such things as hogs, dairy cows, poultry, eggs, corn, wheat, white potatoes, cotton, and so forth. To the school team and individual making the highest scores, awards are given in the shape of a silver loving cup and gold or bronze medals.

The aim of the State Organization of the N. F. A. is to have a progressive program, and to constantly add some new feature or incentive to keep up interest and stimulate competition among the members. Each year has been marked by a corresponding increase in interest, attendance and variety in objectives and accomplishments.

**Athletic Activities.** The athletic interest of the N. F. A. chapters has increased. They have promoted and conducted football, basketball and baseball teams and games as well as other forms of athletic sports. Many competitive games between chapter teams have been staged and much skill and athletic ability shown in many of the games. The present star pitcher on the college varsity team at the State College formerly pitched for one of these chapter teams. At a recent rally at the State College a regular field day was held. Members of all or any chapter were privileged to participate.

In the organizational activities described, little has been said about organizations for improvement of marketing conditions, both buying and selling or for the improvement of credit conditions. There are practically no independent Negro organizations for such purposes. Negro farmers, however, along with white farmers have joined various types of marketing organizations such as Tobacco Marketing Association, Peanut Marketing Association, vegetable or produce associations, and so on. Negro farmers have also taken some advantage of the recent special credit provisions developed by the government.

## **CASE STUDIES**

### **Organizations**

Case studies are presented here as a further picture of extension work activities. Three counties, Nansemond, Powhatan and Brunswick, have been selected to show, respectively, one that is outstanding, one that is average, and one that has lagged behind.

#### **Study Number One**

Nansemond County is situated in the southeastern section of the state. Over 60 per cent of the people are Negroes. It is strictly a farming section. Approximately one-third of the farm land of the county is operated by Negroes.

Extension work was introduced in this county among the Negroes in 1914 by field agent J. B. Pierce. Since 1914 four Negro county agents have centered their efforts on the building up of a better rural life in Nansemond County. The progress of extension service here is evidenced by a well-organized plan of extension activities and by a constantly-improving standard of living on the part of the people.

Goals have been set and programs of work planned. New methods have been introduced that have changed the type of farming. Better livestock has been brought in. The present county agent states that "the improved economic status is shown by increased bank accounts and by the replacement of their former homes with larger and more attractive structures having all modern equipment."

**The County Advisory Board.** The county advisory board is the central organization for all the cooperative extension activities in the county. Its general purposes and plan of organization were stated in the outline of the extension work set up.

**Community Clubs.** There are twelve organized communities in Nansemond County with a total membership of 554 families. These twelve community centers include every farming section in the county. Three-fourths of the people are connected with these clubs. There are also twelve 4-H clubs with a total membership of 469 boys and girls.

**The Nansemond County Fair.** The Negro County Fair Association of Nansemond County was organized in 1910. The association is composed of well-known Negro farmers in Nansemond and other nearby counties. Many business men other than farmers are also members of the association. The fair is the second oldest Negro farm organization in the county. It grew out of the Farmers' Conference which is still an active organization. The fair has grown to such an extent that it is generally called the "Negro State Fair." It is usually held annually for four days in the month of October. Farmers in five nearby counties take an active interest in this fair. Since 1929 it has had the cooperation of Hampton Institute and the Virginia State College for Negroes. Both of these institutions display at the fair educational exhibits that attract large numbers of people each year. The fair association owns twenty-three acres of land, five exhibit buildings, a grand-stand and several other smaller buildings.

The primary purpose of the fair is to bring to the public some idea of the advancement of the agricultural program. It also serves as an advertisement of extension practices. It attempts to demonstrate to the public that quality as well as quantity is essential in making farm prod-



ucts profitable. These outstanding features are brought to the attention of every one by competent judges who place prizes on the best exhibits.

In 1931, twelve communities of the county took part in making the fair a success. For the first time the county was represented from every organized community with exhibits from both senior and junior organizations. There is improvement annually in the quality of products exhibited. A striking feature is the uniformity of exhibits. Each farmer who exhibits knows that his produce must be exceptionally good if he expects to get a prize.

**Conferences.** The Farmers' Conference has been referred to as the oldest Negro farm organization in Nansemond County. In August, 1932, a conference was held in the Mt. Zion community. "Canning by the pressure method" was demonstrated. Vegetables from five different communities were brought out to be canned by pressure cooking. As a result of this demonstration nearly 700 cans of vegetables were made in eight homes in one month. The other communities represented showed a similar interest in making use of the information given at the conference.

**Junior Work.** The junior work is a prominent part of the extension program in Nansemond County. There are twelve 4-H clubs in the county, one in each community. In 1927 the 4-H club enrollment was 150; the enrollment for 1932 was 469. Connected with the 4-H club activities for this year were 48 adult leaders, 52 project captains, 5 judging teams and 8 demonstration teams.

The work of the junior council is responsible for much of the progress of 4-H club activities in the county. The junior council is made up of two members from each club—a boy and a girl—and the club leader. The council meets twice a year, spring and fall. At these meetings, new rules and plans for future activities are made.

The leadership of the 4-H clubs is drawn from farm men and women who are interested in the progress of the young people. These leaders are selected by the various clubs of the county. They attend the various meetings and act generally in an advisory capacity. They are always on duty when there are picnics, trips and rallies.

**Crop Improvement.** Nansemond County has made considerable gains in the quality, quantity and diversification of farm products since the introduction of extension methods. Corn was once a problem in the county, but now it is easily grown in any section. The United States Agricultural Report shows an increase in the production of corn from 21 bushels to 29 bushels per acre in the period of 1924-1929. A survey of

207 Negro farmers of this county showed that after following extension methods for five years their yields per acre jumped from 26 to 32 bushels. One man who followed extension methods gathered 95 barrels of corn from a 12-acre plot in 1932; or an average of 45 bushels per acre. This was 17 bushels more than the state average for 1931.

Though Nansemond is not essentially a cotton-producing section, there has been a substantial increase in cotton production among Negro farmers both in acreage and in pounds. The twelve men who grew cotton for demonstration plots in 1932 made the following showing after heavy boll weevil damage. They grew 69 acres of cotton that yielded 48,300 pounds or an average of 700 pounds per acre. The Holland Experiment Station gave valuable aid and information in these demonstrations.

Nansemond County has the special type of soil suitable for growing peanuts. Usually one-half of the crop acreage is planted to this crop. Since it is the chief money crop much study has been made as to the best methods to be used in growing peanuts successfully. The activities of the Holland Experiment Station and the peanut demonstrators which have been in progress since 1922 prove to the farmers that lime and crop rotation are the two essentials in raising profitable peanut crops. In applying this method a Mt. Zion Community Negro demonstrator was successful in growing 31 bags of peanuts to the acre. By following economic methods he was able to get his peanut crop limed and rotated for \$15.00 whereas it had cost him \$50.00 previously.

By the use of cover crops soil improvement has become an outstanding feature of the extension program in Nansemond County. The cover crops that are used most extensively are rye, oats and soybeans. Soil fertility is being restored in every magisterial district by a number of farmers. In Myrtle community more than 1,100 acres of rye were sown in 1932 for grazing and soil fertility by Negro farmers.

Lespedeza was used in the county by Negro farmers for the first time in 1932. This new crop was introduced for the purpose of promoting permanent pasture lands and building up the soil.

Terracing was also used by Negro farmers for the first time in 1932 as a means of maintaining soil fertility. With the aid of the county agent one farmer in Little Fork community laid ten terraces. This man estimated this project to have increased the value of his land by \$500.00.

Since the farmers have been using improved methods of soil building the problem of hay has been practically solved for many. There has been a decided improvement in both the quantity and quality of hay that is now being produced. One farmer harvested from a field of three acres

(1932) five tons of winter oats. He reseeded the same plot during the summer to soybeans and cowpeas. Four more tons of hay were harvested during the fall.

The "live-at-home program" has done much in creating interest in gardens. Annually large numbers are being cultivated. This project has received county-wide attention and results may be seen in every magisterial district. This growth of interest in gardens has been stimulated by the garden campaigns conducted annually for five years by the Farmers' Conference.

The Manning community was outstanding in garden projects for 1932. At their monthly meetings the year-round garden plan was discussed. Every member pledged his cooperation. Seeds were ordered cooperatively by the club. Suggestive garden charts were issued to every one in the community. During the month of July, 1932, the gardens were checked. Five new vegetables were found growing in twenty-one gardens. Eleven different vegetables were found growing where six grew the previous year.

**Livestock.** Each year finds the Negro farmers of Nansemond County more interested in improved methods of livestock raising. This phase of farming is now very closely allied with crop rotation. Demonstration centers have developed in various sections of the county. More and more attention is given to the raising of poultry and swine. Emphasis has been put on methods of breeding, culling and feeding. Farmers are seeing the advantages of well ventilated and sanitary houses for their swine and poultry. They have also learned by demonstration something of the commercial advantages of swine and poultry.

**Home improvement.** Beautifying homes and public centers has been one of the important features of the Extension Program in Nansemond County. The County Advisory Board adopted a five-year program of beautification. The object of this movement is to raise the value of property and also to develop the aesthetic life of the people. Since the beautification program started in the county, five churches have graded their lawns and set out shrubbery. Eight schools have done likewise. Twenty-eight homes took definite steps in 1932 to make their homes beautiful by transplanting shrubbery and seeding their lawns.

**Factors Contributing to Successful Extension Activities in Nansemond County.** Among the factors contributing to successful organizational development among Negro farmers in Nansemond County the following are outstanding. In the various units of organization definite goals were set. There was always organization for some definite purpose. Some community problem is selected for attack. The program



has been in the light of improved methods of agriculture and the changes that are taking place in the community. The necessity for a goal; the cooperation that the project will demand; and the need of definite knowledge of the situation to be dealt with are some of the factors taken into account in organizing a community.

Leadership has played an important role in successful organization. The plan of work has been carefully divided into its various units and a careful selection of leaders made to take charge of each. These leaders are farmers who are constantly seeking new ideas and new methods in farming. They are charged with the responsibility of conducting conferences and community club meetings. They also have charge of all demonstrations. It is their duty to see that the entire community receives plans for new projects.

The leadership in Cypress Chapel District is an example of one that serves the community with unusual efficiency. The meeting of all the clubs has been taken over by the leaders of the district. Over a period of two years the leaders have given two days a month to community improvement—assisting in such projects as gardening, installing pumps in kitchens with sinks, whitewashing and painting. Their school and church yards were graded and cleared for transplanting suitable shrubbery. Through their local meetings they have planned a kitchen and garden campaign to be started in the spring of 1933.

**Outstanding Adult Work.** William Peele of Route No. 1, Suffolk, has done outstanding work in "the live-at-home program" this year (1932). This program was discussed in the community meetings that were held near his home during the winter of 1931-1932. He went home and began working on these new ideas. He arranged early in the year two acres for truck crops. He had two cows and a flock of forty hens. With his summer and fall crops in the two acres that had been prepared for truck, Mr. Peele sold during the summer: Cabbage, early peas, beets, turnips, beans, and has the following vegetables to sell this fall and winter: Collards, spinach, fall turnips, winter cabbage, two kinds of winter kale, white potatoes and sweet potatoes. Mr. Peele has sold on an average of five pounds of butter from the two cows and ten gallons of sweet and sour milk every week for six months. Five and six dozens of eggs and some chickens are taken to the market every week. Returns from these sales amounted to \$332 by November 15, 1932. In addition he has supplied his family of eight with food from his farm. The only articles purchased have been sugar and flour. He has over sixty gallons of sorghum syrup for use during the winter. Not only has the "live-at-home program" proved beneficial to Mr. Peele, but others in this community are reaping the same kind of benefit by following these improved practices.

**Outstanding Club Work.** Wayman Owens, of Route No. 1, Suffolk, a member of the Lummis 4-H club, has done outstanding work in growing corn. Wayman has been a club member since 1926 and grew his first acre of corn during that year. Not satisfied, because he did not win the first prize at the fair with his corn, he went to the county agent for information as to where he might get some good seed. During the year of 1927 ten pecks of Casey's purebred corn were purchased from Surry County and Wayman received one gallon for his seed that spring. That was when his work started as a corn demonstrator. With his corn that fall at the County Fair he won the first place in the shelling contest and the third place on the exhibit. This club boy did not let this stop him. His goal was the sweepstakes at all fairs, and to see how much he could raise on his father's farm.



For five years Wayman won first and second places at the County Fair with his corn. This year Wayman was successful in taking the sweepstakes at the State and County Fairs. His corn won three consecutive years in the shelling at the Tidewater Fair. Since he has been growing this corn his father has adopted not only the use of this seed, but the methods that Wayman has been using in fertilizing and cultivating. Wayman has grown as much as 65 bushels of corn to the acre. With his corn this year he surprised himself. He was disappointed when his father told him that he could not let him have the fertilizer that he wanted for his corn. Instead of using fertilizer Wayman composted his acre this year with eight tons of barnyard manure. This was plowed in by March 20th. The field was thoroughly harrowed three times before the corn was planted in April. When Wayman laid his corn by in the summer 100 pounds of sulphate of ammonia was applied. He harvested 52 bushels of corn this fall. His father's crop averaged 45 bushels to the acre. This year is the first time that he has won the sweepstakes at the two fairs. Besides this Wayman has been making good by selling his corn for seed. The second year his corn won at the shelling contest he sold \$6.50 worth of seed to his neighbors and since the five years he has been growing corn he has collected \$34.50 from the sale of seed. As a result of his work in growing good corn in his community ten farmers and eleven club boys are growing the same kind of corn. These farmers have managed to raise their yield after adopting this good seed, from 15 bushels to 27 bushels to the acre. Wayman is well pleased with his work and knows that other farmers have been greatly helped. The personal initiative shown by this youth is serving as a stimulus throughout his community.

#### Study Number Two

**Extension Activities in Powhatan.** Powhatan County is in the east-central section of Virginia. According to the 1930 Census, Powhatan County has a Negro population of 3,155. Of this number 556 men and 50 women make their living from the soil.

The Extension program was launched in this county in 1918 under the leadership of Mr. W. H. Walton who was appointed farm demonstration agent. Mr. Walton states that "When the work started here the farms owned by Negroes were undeveloped. The farmers did not make enough produce from their farms to supply their needs. The local merchants flourished on them by selling them feed for their stock and for their families at high prices. The soil was depleted and nothing was being done to restore or maintain its fertility. The average yield per acre of wheat was 10 bushels and of corn 23 bushels."

Among the first tasks of the county agent was to set up an organization for the successful attacking of these problems; to sell the extension idea and methods to the farmers. The organization attempts to follow the general scheme set up by the United States Department of Agriculture for extension workers.

Two years after the beginning of extension work in the county the Colored Fair Association was organized. Its officers are elected annually. For twelve years there has been an exhibition of farm and home products by the citizens of the county. Each year there has been increased interest and a wholesome and friendly competition. The first fair was held on the local grounds owned by the white citizens. The first fair was a

**Table 18.—Progress Report On Adult Work in Nansemond County**

	Work Planned	Amount of Work Accomplished
<b>County Activities</b>		
Community to be organized .....	1	1
Communities to be worked .....	12	12
Advisory meetings planned .....	2	2
Conferences planned .....	3	2
County fair planned .....	1	1
Delegates to State Advisory .....	3	3
<b>Community Activities</b>		
<b>Beautification</b>		
Church yards planned .....	12	5
School yards planned .....	12	8
Home yards planned .....	12	28
Community meetings .....	48	59
<b>Engineering</b>		
Farm terraces planned .....	12	15
Water supplies planned .....	12	13
Hog houses planned .....	12	8
Poultry houses planned .....	12	14
		31 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Field Crops</b>		
Corn demonstrations .....	12	12
Cotton demonstrations .....	12	11
Peanut demonstrations .....	12	11
		81 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Soil Improvement</b>		
Pastures planned .....	12	12
Cover crops planned, including rye, oats, soybeans .....	12	12
		29 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Horticulture</b>		
Gardens planned, home supply .....	12	12
		65 <sup>1</sup>
Truck farming planned .....	12	8
		18 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Livestock</b>		
Family cows planned .....	12	16
Hog demonstrations .....	12	12
		49 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Poultry Flocks</b>		
Culling and feeding planned .....	12	12
		26 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Others adopting practices.

**Table 19.—Progress Report On Junior Work in Nansemond County**

	Work Planned	Amount of Work Accomplished
<b>County Activities</b>		
Club to be organized .....	1	1
Club to be worked .....	12	12
Junior Council meetings .....	2	1
Rally planned .....	1	1
Fairs exhibited to .....	2	2
Exhibits for State Fair .....	100	83
Exhibits for County Fair .....	300	312
Delegates to State Short Course planned .....	15	9
<b>Community Activities</b>		
Buying purebred eggs and cockerels .....	24	18
<b>Field Crops</b>		
Corn demonstrations .....	12	54
Cotton demonstrations .....	12	17
Peanut demonstrations .....	12	63
Garden demonstrations .....	12	174
<b>Livestock</b>		
Pig demonstrations .....	12	39
Poultry demonstrations .....	12	115

**Approximate value of produce grown by club members during year**

	Value	Cost	Profit
Garden projects completed .....174.....	\$1,606	\$ 698	\$ 908
Peanut projects completed ..... 63.....	1,678	1,005	673
Corn projects completed ..... 50.....	839	527	312
Cotton projects completed ..... 17.....	375	265	110
Poultry projects completed .....115.....	810	476	333
Fat pig projects completed ..... 32.....	461	231	230
Sow and litter projects completed ..... 4.....	164	82	62
			<b>\$2,628</b>

Source of data: The 1932 report of the County Agent, J. P. Reid; personal interviews with Mr. Reid and District Agent T. B. Patterson, Va. State College for Negroes, Ettrick, Va.

marked success. The white citizens offered their grounds again for the second year but with the rental cost almost doubled. The Colored Fair Association, however, decided to use their surplus cash from the proceeds of their first fair to purchase their own fair grounds. They found it possible to purchase a site containing 22.6 acres at a cost of fifty dollars per acre. This plot of land is on the national highway near the county seat and is therefore accessible to all the people of the county. There were, however, no buildings that could be used for their exhibitions and general fair purposes. Thus arose further necessity for providing adequate ways and means for carrying on the fair. But this also gave opportunity for the demonstration of a community spirit. The county agent called together a group of his advisors and supporters and discussed with them the possibility of erecting adequate buildings in a short time and with little expense if all were willing to cooperate. A call for volunteers was made. Men came from all sections of the county with their wagons, trucks, axes and saws. The timber from their newly-purchased plot of land was cut and carried to a nearby sawmill without any cost to the fair association. In thirty days from the time of the call for volunteers the exhibits for the second annual fair were in the building. The only cost was for materials. The labor was all free. The interest has continued to increase. The building has been enlarged to meet growing needs. Practically one thousand exhibits are shown annually. More than \$200 a year is paid in premiums.

**Crop Production.** It is estimated that more than 150 farmers out of about 600 are raising enough from their farms to supply their families, feed their stock and with a surplus to sell. Improved methods of cultivation have come into general practice. Fall plowing, liming, and cover crops have raised the fertility of the soil and increased its productivity. One farmer in 1931 raised 75 bushels of corn from one and a half acres of land at a net profit of \$27.60. There are approximately 100 demonstration plots in alfalfa. Instead of getting a yield of 10 and 23 bushels of

wheat and corn, respectively, the demonstration yield now averages 26 and 38 bushels per acre for wheat and corn respectively.

**Livestock and Poultry.** A better type of livestock and poultry has been introduced in the county since extension methods have been used. Purebreds are rapidly replacing the mongrel stock. Breeding stations have been set up for poultry, and methods of culling and feeding are more and more being followed. Many boys and girls are making enough from their livestock and poultry projects "to pay their winter's schooling." One boy, a member of the 4-H club, took as his first project a pig which he sold at \$25.00. This was the beginning of his bank account to which he steadily added so that at the time of his marriage his bank balance was over \$500.00.

**4-H Club Activities and Influence.** There are in the county ten 4-H clubs with a total membership of 179, 64 boys and 115 girls. Each year a reasonable percentage of the 4-H boys and girls are graduating from the local schools and going off for advanced study. An ex-4-H club boy, a graduate of Hampton Institute, is now an instructor in St. Emma's College, a local institution. Another young man who made his first money from his 4-H club projects is in the graduating class at the Virginia State College. Other boys and girls are making similar progress which they and their parents attribute to their 4-H club activities.

Faustina and Pearl Simpson (the eldest of a large family) of Trenholm, Virginia, (Powhatan County) have been active club members since 1924. In the fall of 1932 they matriculated in the Junior College Department of the St. Paul School, Lawrenceville, Virginia. They not only helped themselves while in the local schools but were able to save enough from the 4-H club projects to enter college.

They write the following comment on the value of 4-H club work and what it has meant to them: "The benefit one gets from being a member of the 4-H club can not be fully estimated in dollars and cents. It is true that the club members of Powhatan have been successful in winning prizes in the county, state and even national contests, but it is not this achievement that we prize most. It is the training in leadership, the contact with boys and girls who are looking forward to making beautiful homes, more profitable farms and better social conditions among the people with whom we live.

"No boy or girl can be a true member of the 4-H club without a spirit of cooperation. That spirit of cooperation must permeate the entire community. Therefore, let us put forth every effort to make the best better and—



"Pledge our heads to clearer thinking,  
Our hands to larger service,  
Our hearts to greater loyalty,  
Our health to better living  
For our club, community and country."<sup>1</sup>

### Study Number Three

**Extension Program in Brunswick.** Brunswick County is situated in the southern part of Virginia. According to the 1930 population census more than 50 per cent of its population are Negroes (total population, 20,468; Negroes, 12,017). There are 3,210 Negroes engaged in agriculture . . . that is, this number make their living from the soil.

Agricultural Extension work started in Brunswick County in 1914 under the leadership of Herman Russell. He was later succeeded by H. C. Green. The general program of work is similar to that adopted by the other counties. A study of the agent's annual report for 1932 shows that there is no well-defined objective or goal set for the work in this county. In 1932 the extension program was conducted in twelve communities. There were twelve 4-H clubs with a membership of 116 boys.

According to the county agent's report for 1932, eight communities increased their acreage of food crops, legumes for hay and soil improvement as a result of the extension program. The following demonstrations were conducted during the year:

Name of Project	Number
<b>Junior Demonstrations</b>	
Corn .....	45
Sweet potatoes .....	2
Cotton .....	22
<b>Adult Demonstrations</b>	
Corn .....	25
Wheat .....	3
Hay .....	4

The farm agent secured 989 loans for farmers. These loans amounted to \$70,000. As a whole, Brunswick County has lagged far behind in its extension work, both in its general program and the response to leadership. According to the farm agent the following are some of the factors contributing to the retarded progress of extension work in Brunswick County:

- a. It is difficult to get the people of the county to put in practice the information they are receiving.
- b. Illiteracy, indifference and the lack of cooperation stand in the way of progress.
- c. Fifty per cent of the people are tenants.

<sup>1</sup> Source of data: The data presented here were secured through personal interviews with W. H. Walton, County Agent of Powhatan County since 1918 when the work was started. Also the reports from the District Agent's office for 1918, 1924 and 1928 were consulted.

well. Indeed, they are the official representatives of the educational program in their communities. Thus through these leaders the churches and schools are more and more cooperating for rural improvement.

The distribution of the county training schools by counties was shown in Figure 2. Their enrollment is shown in Table 20. This enrollment includes 731 boys and 1,593 girls or a total of 2,324 in high school grades.

The Rosenwald Fund has given substantial aid toward good buildings for the county training schools. This fund contributed \$1,703,885 between 1913 and 1930 to help with the building of 363 Virginia Negro schools.

### **Agricultural Leaders**

The third source producing a new leadership in rural Virginia are the agricultural education movements. These movements have initiated a type of rural program that has demanded a specially-trained leadership and a definite organization of activities. The two phases of this program have been analyzed in a previous section. However, little was said about the personnel under whose supervision this work is carried on.

The extension program is under the direct supervision of men and women who have been selected and appointed on the basis of their leadership qualities as evidenced by their training, experience, community activities, and their success on their own farms or as homemakers. These factors, along with the confidence of the people, are among the necessary elements in the qualification of a farm agent or a home demonstration agent. They must be able, also, to organize effectively and keep up interest in the extension program. They are judged largely by what they are able to accomplish in such matters as soil improvement, improvement in field crops, livestock and home improvement. They are also judged by their ability to "sell" the program of agricultural extension to the people. They must be able to keep accurate records of work done, as well as to follow state plans for work and cooperation. They must be able to sense the needs of their communities and organize to meet those needs.

No farm agent necessarily goes into a community with the sole purpose of becoming a leader. He does, however, go into the community to lead the way, both by example and teaching, to a better farm life. In so far as he is able to accomplish these ends, he automatically becomes a leader, especially in matters relating to farm activities and improvement. If the agent is wise enough, and in most cases he is, to cooperate with other community institutions—the church, the school, and the lodges—he becomes the leader of the entire community.

Table 20.—Enrollment of County Training Schools by Counties, 1929-30

County	Boys	Girls	Total
Albemarle	69	62	131
Appomattox	41	45	86
Bedford	105	156	261
Buckingham	53	65	118
Campbell	58	66	124
Caroline	68	113	181
Charles City	98	127	225
Charlotte	72	57	129
Chesterfield	142	141	283
Clarke	56	62	118
Cumberland	80	88	163
Dinwiddie	81	100	181
Fauquier	130	123	258
Franklin	74	78	152
Gloucester	105	119	224
Goochland	63	76	139
Greensville	212	257	469
Halifax	107	164	271
Hanover	76	101	177
Henrico	99	136	235
Henry	142	202	344
Isle of Wight	92	144	236
James City	126	159	285
King and Queen	99	128	227
King William	81	70	151
Lancaster	97	142	239
Louisa	60	56	116
Lunenburg	85	100	185
Mathews	57	46	103
Mecklenburg	152	206	358
Middlesex	115	140	255
Nansemond	121	143	264
Norfolk	109	172	281
Northumberland	143	139	282
Nottoway	191	238	429
Orange	56	56	112
Pittsylvania	158	242	400
Prince Edward	153	200	353
Prince George	110	125	235
Pulaski	149	121	270
Roanoke	101	117	218
Rockbridge	118	121	239
Rockingham	101	99	200
Southampton	150	173	323
Spotsylvania	57	56	113
Sussex	123	163	286
Washington	48	59	107
Wise	47	60	107
Wythe	65	65	130
York	101	103	204
Totals	4,996	5,986	10,962 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gresham, W. D., State Supervisor of Negro Education. Office files.

The farm agent's position as leader is a strategic one. He stands between the people and the state authorities, and the Federal Government. He is the people's official representative residing in their midst. They seek his counsel and assistance in their personal problems. They trust their children to his care on picnics, on state conferences, and other activities, both in and out of the community. In 1932, twenty-four men and six women served thirty-one counties in Virginia, as this type of rural leader.

To aid in rating the efficiency of the county agent's work, an efficiency scale has been worked out as follows:

### Efficiency Scale

1. Work accomplished ..... 40%
  - (a) Soil improvement
  - (b) Field crops
  - (c) Livestock
  - (d) Home improvement
2. Alertness ..... 20%
  - (a) Getting people out to meetings, etc.
3. Equipment ..... 20%
  - (a) Office files, records, etc.
  - (b) Auto in good repair
4. Boys' Club Work ..... 20%
  - (a) Conforming to state rules and suggestions
  - (b) Sufficient enrollment in county
  - (c) Keeping up to club standards, records, organization, leaders and exhibits
- Total rating ..... 100%

The efficiency rating of 19 county agents according to above scale, 1927, was as follows:

Efficiency	Number of Agents
90% .....	4
85% .....	3
80% .....	5
70% .....	3
65% .....	4

Some few changes have been made since that time in those rating below the danger line.<sup>7</sup> The tendency in the past has been to appoint men as county agents who are established residents of the community. This may account in part for their maturity and in some cases the low rating of many of the men which brings down the average.

The average age of the county agents is 45; that of home demonstration agents is 40. But as new men are appointed the tendency is toward younger men with more definite training for their work. They must have not less than three years of collegiate training, and preferably a B. S. degree in agriculture. Below is given the name, institution in which education was received, and tenure of service of 21 farm demonstration agents by counties.

County	Name	School	Years of Service
Albemarle .....	C. G. Greer .....	Grad., Va. S. Col.....	1918-33
Amelia .....	C. O. Jeffries .....	B. S. Ag., Hamp. Inst.	1932-33
Appomattox .....	P. W. Callahan .....	Grad, Hampton Inst...	1922-33
Brunswick .....	H. C. Green .....	Grad., Richmond Inst..	1916-33
Campbell .....	R. W. Newsome .....	B. S. Ag. A&T Col. <sup>1</sup> ...	1931-33
Charles City .....	R. F. Washington .....	Grad., Hampton Inst...	1912-33
Caroline .....	J. S. Ruffin .....	B. S. Ag., Hampt. Inst..	1930-33

<sup>1</sup> Greensboro, N. C.

<sup>7</sup> Miscellaneous papers and circulars from the District Agent's files.



County	Name	School	Years of Service
Charlotte	F. J. Wilson	Va. Pub. School	1910-33
Chesterfield	R. F. Jones	Grad., Va. S. Col.	1915-33
Dinwiddie	A. W. Pegram	Grad., Hampton Inst.	1912-33
Greensville	Randolph Ruffin	Grad., Hampton Inst.	1921-33
Isle of Wight	F. A. Bowman	Grad., Hampton Inst.	1921-33
Lunenburg	D. H. Smith	Grad., Hampton Inst.	1919-33
Mecklenburg	N. D. Morse	Grad., Boydton Inst.	1916-33
Nansemond	H. P. Reid	Grad., Hampton Inst.	1925-33
Nottoway	G. E. Oliver	Grad., Hampton Inst.	1908-33
Powhatan	W. H. Walton	Grad., Va. S. Col.	1918-33
Prince Edward	J. W. Lancaster	Grad., Hampton Inst.	1912-33
Southampton	S. G. Mansfield	B. S. Ag., Hamp. Inst.	1931-33
Surry and Prince George	W. H. George	Grad., Hampton Inst.	1916-33
Sussex	M. D. Jones	Ex. Student, St. Paul Normal and Industrial Inst.	1916-33

While most of the agents listed have been in the service for a long time there has been a service turn-over in the ranks since 1908 of about 55 per cent.<sup>8</sup>

Below is given the name, the name of the institution in which education was received and tenure of service of the six home demonstration agents by counties.<sup>9</sup>

County	Name	School	Years of Service
Bedford	Mrs. Y. B. Flagg	Hampton Inst.	1921-33
Amherst	Miss Rachel Carter	St. Paul	1921-33
Halifax	Mrs. E. L. Banks	Hampton Inst.	1926-33
Hanover	Miss T. S. Tomkins	Hampton Inst.	1930-33
Louisa	Miss Blanche Harrison	Va. State College	1930-33
Nelson	Mrs. V. T. Smith	Richmond Inst.	1921-33

**The Vocational Agricultural Teachers.** It has been stated in another section that the County Training School paved the way for the establishment of vocational agriculture in Negro schools. Along with this movement was the appointment of men especially trained for this type of work. These men, in many of the communities are playing an important role in rural leadership. Their work has proceeded along four definite lines: (1) All-day instruction classes reaching those who are regularly matriculated in these schools; (2) day-unit instruction classes—reaching those in the smaller schools two or three times a week; (3) part-time instruction classes reaching those who have dropped out of school before completing their elementary or high school education. These classes are arranged during the slack farming season. They are held in the afternoon or evening, depending upon the convenience of the group. (4) Evening class work, designed particularly for adult farm men and women who

<sup>8</sup> Patterson, T. B., Dist. Farm Agt., Va. State College, Ettrick, Va.

<sup>9</sup> Office Files of Miss L. A. Jenkins, Dist. Home Demonstration Agent, Va. State College, Ettrick, Va.

The school plant at present consists of the main building, a science hall, and a vocational shop. Its staff consists of eight teachers who are well qualified for their tasks. The school is now a four-year accredited high school. Many of the students, year by year, are going to higher institutions of learning as they finish their course of study at White Stone.

Mr. Wright's interests and efforts have not been limited to the educational activities of his community. He has been, through the years, actively associated with the church, and the fraternal and civic organizations of the community. He is one of the prime movers in the Northern Neck Progressive Association and serves as its secretary. He has helped to promote the County Agricultural Fair and the Lancaster County Voter's League. He has been most influential in starting all of these organizations.

**H. P. Reid, Farm Agent of Nansemond County.** It was shown in a previous section that four of the farm agents rated 90 per cent according to the efficiency scale used by the supervisors of the work. One of these four is Mr. H. P. Reid, Farm Agent of Nansemond County. He is a native of the county. He received his elementary education in the public schools of his county. After finishing the public schools he went to Hampton Institute where he studied vocational agriculture. He was graduated in 1925 and was immediately appointed farm demonstration agent in his home county. He has succeeded in building up one of the most thorough and forward-going programs of agricultural extension in the state. His program and achievements are more fully described in case study number one under organization.

**Thomas B. Patterson.** Mr. Patterson is district farm demonstration agent at the Virginia State College for Negroes. "Any work worth doing is worth doing thoroughly" has been the life motto which has taken Thomas B. Patterson from the humble home in South Carolina where he first saw the light in 1866, through Hampton Institute where he graduated in 1890, to Yale University for one year, and to Pennsylvania State College for short course resident work and extension courses in agriculture. It also helped him make a success of his five years' work as a Pullman car porter; of his 12 years spent in developing an abandoned mountain farm in western Pennsylvania until it became a model for his section; of his two years as professor of Livingston College, North Carolina; of his four years as county farm demonstration agent in Rowan County, North Carolina; and his 10 years as district agent in charge of Negro demonstration work for Virginia, which position he has held since 1922.

Patterson's abilities, training and experience have given him keen

insight into many problems. He realized that one of the greatest needs of his people is more united effort in their own behalf. Consequently, he has given much time and thought to perfecting and furthering the various types of organizations needed for the promotion of the extension program. While county agent in North Carolina, he organized the first credit union for Negroes in the country. Much of the success of the extension program among Negroes described in preceding pages is traceable to the fine leadership of Professor Patterson. In connection with his work he has been a frequent contributor to papers of different kinds.

Not only has he been an outstanding leader in the field of agriculture and community life improvement but he is also a high-toned Christian gentleman and has exerted a fine influence in many directions. He might well be taken as a model for any youth who wants to make a success of his life.

**T. L. G. Walden** is a successful farmer in Little Fork Community of Nansemond County. The community work of county agents, agricultural leaders, ministers, doctors and other professional leaders described in the accompanying sketches would not be possible without the support of good local lay leaders. One of the most outstanding of such leaders in the state is Mr. T. L. G. Walden. He has given his active support to efforts for the improvement of his school, his church and the farming practices of his community. He is a leader in his local and county organizations, in the county fair, and in the state agricultural extension organization.

These are a few representative examples of Negro leadership in Virginia of which there are many. They indicate what is going on in many sections of rural Virginia, and what the possibilities are under strong, dynamic, and earnest leadership.

## EVALUATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the historical review given in a preceding section it may be seen that organizational effort, though inadequate, has met very definitely many social, economic and educational needs in rural Negro life. The moral and fraternal associations have tended to create a deeper sense of moral uprightness and pave the way for a more wholesome social contact by putting a ban on sex laxity and other forms of anti-social conduct. The fraternal organizations have further tended to create a stronger sense of sympathy and mutual responsibility and cooperation, not only in the matter of morals and social contacts, but also in matters of economic and educational advancement. Ideals have been set up and loyal-

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dillard, James Hardy, *Selected Writings*. Trustees of The John F. Slater Fund, 1932. 726 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.
- Dillard, James Hardy, "A Happy Development." *Opportunity* Vol. 8, No. 1. (Reprint.)
- Dillard, James Hardy, *Fourteen Years of the Jeanes Fund, 1909-1920*. Reprint from the *South Atlantic Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 3, July, 1923.
- Garnett, W. E., *Rural Organization in Relation to Rural Life in Virginia with Special Reference to Organizational Attitudes*. Bul. 256, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Blacksburg, Va., 1927.
- Garnett, W. E., *Young People's Organizations with Special Reference to 4-H Clubs*. Bulletin 274, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Blacksburg, Va., 1930.
- Hamilton, C. H., and Ellison, J. M., *The Negro Church in Rural Virginia*. Bulletin 273, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Blacksburg, Va., 1930.
- Le Beau, R. C., *The Development of Agricultural Education Under the Smith-Hughes Act Among Negroes in Virginia*. M. A. Thesis (unpublished) Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1932.
- Lindeman, E. C., *The Community, An Introduction to the Study of Community Leadership and Organization*. Association Press, New York, 1921.
- Newman, W. S., *Annual Report Supervisor of Agricultural Education to Federal Board for Vocational Education, Negro Schools—Session 1930-31*.
- Stevenson, J. A., *Project Method in Teaching*. The MacMillan Co., New York.
- Embree, Edwin R., *Julius Rosenwald Fund, Review for the Year, 1930*.
- Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond, Va., 1929-30*.
- "Chapter Chats," Department of Vocational Education. Virginia State College and the State Board of Vocational Education, Virginia State College, July issue, 1931.



Annual Report, 1932, Farm Agent J. P. Reid, Nansemond County, Va.

Annual Report, 1932, Farm Agent H. C. Green, Brunswick County, Va.

Annual Report, 1931, Farm Agent W. H. Walton, Powhatan County, Va.

Annual Report, 1930, Farm Agent Wm. Pegram, Dinwiddie County, Va.

Office files of District Agent T. B. Patterson, Virginia State College,  
Ettrick, Va.

Office files of District Home Demonstration Agent, Miss L. A. Jenkins,  
Virginia State College, Ettrick, Va.

Office files of District Agent J. L. Charity, N. Fifth St., Richmond, Va.